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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,291	12/28/2001	Yusuke Nakazono	35.G2971	3111
5514 7590 11/14/2007 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			EXAMINER RUDOLPH, VINCENT M	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/14/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/029,291	Applicant(s) NAKAZONO ET AL.	
	Examiner Vincent M. Rudolph	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 40,41,44,50,51,54,60,64 and 65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 40,41,44,50,51,54,60,64 and 65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 40-41, 44, 50-51, 54, 60 and 64-65 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirst ('553).

Regarding claim 40, Hirst ('553) discloses a software distributing system (over the internet, See Col. 6, Line 17-20, to the host device and printer, See Figure 1) for distributing control software (software in the image forming device, See Col. 5, Line 19-22) used by an image forming apparatus to an external apparatus, which is an information processing apparatus connected with the image forming apparatus, over a network (See Figure 1, as well as providing an internet link to the host device, See Col. 6, Line 17-20). This includes a receiving unit (embodied within host device, See Figure 1, Element 20) for receiving production lot information and operation information of a consumable unit from the external apparatus (the printer driver within the host device receives the identification information and status, such as number of pages printed, for the specific consumable, See Figure 2, Element 19a-19b; Col. 5, Line 1-12) such that the consumable unit is detachably located in the image forming apparatus (See Figure 1, Element 18) and includes multiple hardware parts for forming an image to a recording medium (the laser printer, See Col. 4, Line 16-18, includes multiple consumable devices

within it, See Col. 1, Line 49-56) and a memory (See Figure 1, Element 19) for storing the production lot information of the consumable unit (See Figure 2) such that the production lot information is an identifier (See Figure 2, Element 19a) that differs according to differences in the production conditions, which are based on a material and the production environment (paper types and other usage information pertinent to the printing process, See Col. 5, Line 16-19), of the consumable unit (stores the identification and model number of the consumable unit as well as data such as the number of printed pages, amount of toner remaining, etc., See Figure 2; Col. 5, Line 7-13), a selecting unit (embodied within the host device) that is configured to select the control software based on the production lot information and the operation information received in order for the controller unit (embodied within the host device) to distribute the control software selected to the external apparatus through the network (extracts information from the consumable, See Col. 5, Line 3-6, in order to provide software updates to it, See Col. 5, Line 19-21, such that the updated information is received over the internet, See Figure 5-6, Col. 6, Line 17-20).

Regarding claim 41, Hirst ('553) discloses that the production lot information of the consumable unit is based on a combination of the production lot information of the consumable hardware parts (the consumable as well as the controller, which modulates the laser for photoconductor exposure, See Col. 4, Line 34-37, and formatter are used in the process of receiving software updates for the printer, See Figure 4-5; Col. 5, Line 20-22).

Regarding claim 44, Hirst ('553) disclose the external apparatus is a computer connected with the image forming apparatus (See Figure 1).

Regarding claim 64, Hirst ('553) discloses that the consumable unit is a process cartridge (See Col. 4, Line 47-48) and the consumable hard part includes a photoconductor (See Col. 1, Line 49-56).

Regarding claims 50-51, 54 and 65, the rationale provided in the rejection of claims 40-41, 44 and 64 is incorporated herein. In addition, the system of claims 40-41, 44 and 64 corresponds to the method of claims 50-51, 54 and 65 and performs the steps disclosed herein.

Regarding claims 60, Spurr ('356) discloses a computer-executable program that is stored on a computer-readable medium for a computer to execute the information processing method (the printer driver software within the host device, See Figure 1; Col. 5, Line 1-3).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection. Thus, the prior art of Hirst is able to meet the limitations of the amended claims as disclosed within the rejection above.

The examiner suggests distinctly pointing out that the control software is selected based on a predetermined amount and to distribute the software only if it is needed as shown in Figure 7 of the drawings as well as Page 21, Paragraph 0082-Page 24 of the Specification. By incorporating those limitations into the claims, it would be able to overcome the prior art of record, but may require further searching and consideration.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent M. Rudolph whose telephone number is (571) 272-8243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571) 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

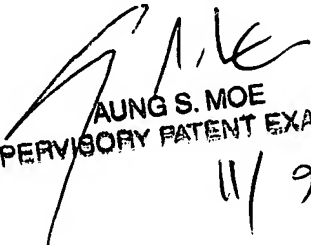
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

11/9/07

VM2

Vincent M. Rudolph
Examiner
Art Unit 2625


AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
11/9/07